

MINE MANAGEMENT.

We said a few days ago that we would have something to say about mine management, for the benefit of persons in the East who have invested in mining in this and adjoining States and Territories. We have seen the way in which it is done in several instances, so know whereof we speak. A mine is sold in some eastern city, money raised to prosecute developments and erect suitable machinery. Of course the first thing is the selection of a superintendent. In place of sending some careful business man who is interested in the property out to the mine and have him employ a miner who has learned the trade by working at it, it is the custom to pick up some pretty smart chap who happens to be out of employment, pay him two or three times what a capable man could be got for on the ground; furnish him with plenty of money and send him out. He arrives at the mine and the first thing he thinks of is to provide for his personal comfort. He builds a handsome residence, furnishes it in style, purchases a nice buggy and fine pair of horses, hires a foreman and bookkeeper and now he is ready for business. All this takes money and in most mining districts a good deal of it. There may not be ore enough in sight to keep a five stamp mill running, but this kid-gloved superintendent does nothing by halves; no little prospecting trip for him. So he goes to work and puts up anywhere from twenty to forty stamps. We know of one instance in which a very large mill has been built at an enormous expense, and we have been repeatedly told by miners from the district that when the job was commenced not a pound of ore had ever been seen in the mine, in fact all the mine there was consisted of a hole about fifteen feet deep full of water. Of course the mill is idle and likely to remain so. There are mining operations going on in several places in this State under the direction of fancy superintendents that are standing jokes among the miners of the sections where they are being done. The effect of this needless waste of money is to condemn mining as a legitimate business at the centers of capital. That there have been a large number of worthless mines sold in the East; that millions of dollars have been uselessly expended, is not the fault of the mines; but for the want of decent care in the purchase and decent management afterwards. If persons who wish to invest in mining enterprises will employ practical miners to examine and report on the proposed purchase and then a practical miner to carry on the work they will find mining an exceedingly profitable business.

A Popular King.

The king of Spain is the exceptional member of his family. Descending from a race that has been noted for the tenacity with which it has held to the "divinity that doth hedge about a king," he has at all times favored the most advanced liberal ideas, gladly granting to his people all the liberties he believed they were capable of exercising. He has drawn to him the ablest men in his kingdom, and shown tact and judgement beyond his years. His popularity grows apace in Spain. He recently passed his 24th birthday, and the levee given in the Madrid Palace to honor the occasion was attended by delegates from all the official bodies in the land and by representatives of the various political organizations. Some time ago fault was found with the King's extreme youth. But the comments now heard refer to the old head that rests upon his shoulders. As a speaker he is called able, even in a country where oratorical gifts are prized, and predictions are made in London newspapers that he will, ere long, rank next to Queen Victoria as the most popular constitutional sovereign in Europe.

The legislative deadlock at Albany is likely to continue until Wednesday next, when it is said it will be broken in the Senate; that the Senate programme of the Democrats is to have a Democratic member offer a resolution appointing the committees, on which Republicans are to have a fair representation, and a number of them will vote for the resolution. The Tammany leaders scout the idea of such a combination, and say that Senator Jacobs called upon them Wednesday evening and proposed to accede to their demands in every instance, which proposition they say they declined unless he agreed to withdraw as a candidate for the Presidency pro tem. The County Democracy feel convinced that no organization can be perfected before next week.

Neither Read nor Scoville appear at all sanguine of a favorable verdict, yet both stoutly maintain not only that Guitau was not legally responsible for his act, but is at this moment insane. His own assertion to the contrary notwithstanding, Scoville was disappointed at his failure to get before the jury additional expert evidence with which he had expected to rebut the testimony of the government experts. The case is expected to go to the jury by Thursday next.

If this thing keeps on and the affairs of cities, counties, States and the Nation are to be administered on business principles, what is going to become of all the small beer statesmen? It is too awfully awful to think of.

SPLINTER.

They are selling Iowa raised turkeys in Austin, Nevada.

The Salt Lake Tribune places the billion yield of Utah at nearly \$10,000,000.

Is there a word in the English language that contains all the vowels?

There is, unquestionably.

A few nights ago the San Francisco Harbor Police caught a boat load of opium worth \$35,000, while being smuggled ashore.

The San Washington special says: The name of Robert Lincoln is already being canvassed in this city in connection with the Presidency.

On New Year's day, at the town of Sutro, David Kelly, a foot-racer, made a mile in six minutes and eleven seconds, in a race against time for \$40.

Synopsis opinion by the Court: "These defendants are dismissed. The Court finds they stole a large amount—enough to entitle them to respect. Call the next case."

Ex-Governor Taber, the Colorado mining millionaire, is said to have recently bought the Jay Gould, Mayflower and Eureka mines, at Wood River, Idaho, paying \$450,000 for the three.

A correspondent of the Chicago Inter-Ocean signs herself "Alyce Carlyle." For aesthetic style this is enough to make one smile until the radiance of his beaming countenance can be seen for a smile!

In the United States twelve manufacturers produce 10,000,000 teeth annually or one to every five persons. The amount annually squandered on teeth is \$1,000,000. A half million of gold is used every year to fill teeth.

The fastest recorded time of New York fire engines companies for harnessing up and getting ready to start is one second and a half. The average time of four or five of the quickest companies is about three seconds.

The public debt of the United States was reduced in December by \$12,793,624. Since the 30th of June last, the close of the previous financial year, the debt has been reduced by \$75,107,094. This is a very satisfactory showing, under our debt paying policy.

The crosscut on the 200 level of the Gunsight mine, Arizona, is said to be a mineral wonder. The ledge is fully twenty-eight feet wide, all ore with the exception of a small streak of sienite in the middle, and every particle of quartz taken out shows clear mineral.

There is a young lady in Keokuk, Iowa, who is six feet four inches tall, and she is engaged to be married. The man who won her did so in these words: "Thy beauty sets my soul aglow—I'd wed thee right or wrong; man wants but little here below, but wants that little—long."

Dr. H. J. Glenn of Jacinto has already ploughed and sowed 40,000 acres in wheat and expects to put in 30,000 acres more. If the yield is an average one in Colusa, Dr. Glenn will have in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 bushels to the harvest, or enough to load 30 ships.

It is remarked upon as a singular coincidence, in view of their long protracted hostility to each other, that Messrs. Conkling and Blaine, who seven months ago held two of the proudest positions in the land, are both at present out of public life. No year in the history of our country has surpassed in dramatic events and situations the year 1881; none in time of peace has equaled it.

British Voyagers Coming.

The British steamship Ceylon is on her way around the world, with a party of 500 excursionists on board. The Ceylon left England a few weeks ago. She has visited various points of interest in Spain and Portugal, and when last heard from was at Malaga. Other Mediterranean ports will be visited, after which the steamship will pass through the Suez Canal and visit various points on the Asiatic shores. She will also call, among other places, at San Francisco, being due there some time in March. South America, Australia, the South Sea Islands and other interesting parts of the globe will be included in the trip.

The New York Evening Post says that a powerful lobby is expected in Washington after the recess, to push the Nicaragua canal scheme through. It is rumored that General Grant has turned from the Nicaragua canal, and now favors the Eads ship railway scheme, and the step is only the beginning of others which will lead to the consolidation of the two plans.

During the first eleven months of 1881 the value of breadstuffs exported from the United States amounted to \$128,318,378, being about thirty millions less than for the same period of 1880.

An Anti-Prohibition Club, with a large membership has been organized at Burlington Iowa. The liquor question promises to be an important factor in politics, during the present year.

A Significant Little Speech from King Humbert.

La Opinion says: King Humbert, when receiving the New Year congratulations of Senators and members of the Chamber of Deputies, said, with an evident allusion to Bismarck's reported designs on behalf of the Vatican, that Italy was resolved to respect all governments, and had no reason to believe that any one had been wanting in respect to her, but it was well to make known that she was firmly decided not to admit the slightest discussion of certain questions touching her internal order. King Humbert also dwelt upon the necessity of the completion of the military organization. The King's words produced a great impression.

What Alaska is Good For.

Prof. Davidson in an address recently delivered in San Francisco says:

The islands, whose surrounding waters it is sought to be made known by surveys, present a shore line of 9,000 miles, and every mile is covered with timber to the water's edge. A timber which is abundant there is the yellow or Sitka cedar, used by the Russians before the purchase of Alaska by the United States, for ship-building. He had taken from there a piece of that yellow cedar, which formed part of a wreck that had lain on the shore for twenty-eight years, and had been in a ship which had been on the sea eight years before wrecked. These specimens were as sound as when the tree which grew there was cut. He had submitted the specimens to the Smithsonian Institute and to the construction department of the navy, and the latter had pronounced the yellow cedar the finest timber of its class for ship-building. The supply is so great that it will last until after all of the timber in Oregon is gone. Another source of wealth which could be developed if the surveys were completed, is the mineral deposit. He had taken from Alaska specimens of magnetic iron ore of the richest description. Some of it contained 70 per cent iron. There are also deposits of coal and limestone, used as a flux in smelting iron ore. The importance of such deposits of those three minerals, all necessary for the production of pig iron, can not be overestimated.

Then there is the cod fisheries interest. The cod banks are of an area four times greater than those around Newfoundland, and the cod can be made as marketable and valuable as those of Newfoundland, if more care is exercised in the curing. The whale fisheries will be more valuable each year. To be sure, the ful seal industry is not open to general development, but the sea otter, not monopolized, offers a richer prize.

A Grand Railroad Scheme.

A railroad from Texas to Brazil through Mexico and Central America and by the Isthmus of Panama to Rio Janeiro has been projected. It is said that John W. Mackay, the great bonanza king, is to be the President, and that he has promised to devote his best energies and a large part of his capital to its completion. The project referred to was originated several years ago by Major John A. Lynch, now a resident of Washington. It then received the favorable consideration of Senator David Davis who gave tangible shape to the suggestion by introducing in the Senate a joint resolution that proposed the holding at Washington of a convention in which all the Republics of Central and South America should be invited to participate for the purpose of discussing this subject, and of taking action by which substantial harmonious co-operation could be had in carrying out such international railway communication. Senator Davis' measure met the fate of many others which were referred to the Committee, as then constituted, and died of neglect. There is now considerable talk of reviving the scheme, and although the rumor of Mackay's interest in it has not yet been verified, it is conceded that his support will go a long way toward insuring its success.

The Business Boom.

The Boston Post says: The year just closed had been one of unexampled prosperity throughout the business and industrial circles of the country. This is reflected sharply in the clearings at Clearings-houses, all but one showing an increase in the year's business over that of 1880. It is a striking evidence of the growth of our country that the total gross clearings of the large cities have increased in one twelvemonth from \$50,688,924,098, to \$64,409,580,967, or 27.1 per cent.

Last year the increase over 1879 was 31.6 per cent. Tested by these records, the business of 1881 appears to have surpassed that of any previous year by between one-fifth and one-sixth in volume. The most remarkable increase of the year was that of Louisville, with 33 per cent gain, followed by Kansas City, 32.9; Chicago, 30.5; Pittsburgh, 30.6; New York, 28.6; Boston, 27.2; Cincinnati, 23.7; San Francisco, 23; Indianapolis, 22.4; Cleveland, 21.8; Springfield, 17.9; St. Louis, 17.

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